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Supreme Court opens new frontier for insurrection claims that could target state and local officials

By MORGAN LEE and
 NICHOLAS RICCARDI
 Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Two recent U.S. Supreme Court actions have opened the door to a new legal frontier in which local and state officials can be disqualified from office for life for engaging in “insurrection” or providing “aid and comfort” to enemies of the Constitution, based on a post-Civil War era addition to the nation’s foundational legal document and how the courts interpret it. The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from a former New Mexico county commissioner who was kicked out of office after he was convicted of trespassing during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.



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Coy Griffin, a former Otero County commissioner and cofounder of Cowboys for Trump, speaks during a gun rights rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sept. 12, 2023.

Associated Press
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Supreme Court opens new frontier for insurrection claims that could target state and local officials

Continued from Front

The state judge who barred him from office did so on the grounds that his actions violated Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, which was added to the Constitution in 1868 to prevent Confederates from returning to government. The move came on the heels of an expedited high-court ruling that Section 3 can't be used against federal officials or candidates until Congress writes a law outlining procedures to do so. That includes former President Donald Trump, the target of a national campaign to end his bid to return to the White House via the 14th Amendment.

But the court's ruling in the



A demonstrator holds a sign outside of the U.S. Supreme Court, Feb. 8, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

Trump case explicitly said the provision could still be used against state and local officials.

Taken together, the actions herald a new legal landscape

as the liberal groups that pushed the issue of Trump's disqualification to the Supreme Court reboot efforts to target state and local officials linked to Jan. 6.

"This is a bit of returning to the course we expected to be following, which was holding individuals accountable, who are low-level officials, who still broke their oath by coming to D.C., engaging in insurrection," said Stuart McPhail, an attorney with Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a left-leaning group whose lawsuit against Trump ended up at the Supreme Court.

Ron Fein, legal director of Free Speech For People, which brought several other actions seeking to disqualify Trump and Republican members of Congress for their role in the Capitol attack, wouldn't comment on his group's plans.

But, he said, one legal fact remains clear.

"Section 3 continues to be a viable way of protecting against insurrectionists in state and local government," Fein said.

CREW, which brought the lawsuit against Trump's candidacy that landed at the Supreme Court, has identified state lawmakers it believes might be vulnerable to challenges under Section 3. It already has succeeded in one case, brought against the local official in New Mexico. Otero County Commissioner Couy Griffin, a founder of the promotional group Cowboys for Trump, is the only elected official thus far to be banned from office in connection with the Capitol attack, which disrupted Congress as it was trying to certify Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory over Trump.

The lawsuit against him cited his violation of Section 3, which prohibits anyone who swore an oath to uphold the Constitution and then "engaged in insurrection or rebellion" against it or gave "aid and comfort" to its enemies, from holding future office. McPhail says there is a new sense of urgency to take action under that clause against state or local officials linked to Jan. 6 — before they run for federal office and can't be sidelined.

"It does create this incentive to bring cases from low-level officials now because then

you can actually win them and get some kind of relief in judgments, whereas if you wait, you may have lost the opportunity," he said.

Based on the Supreme Court's ruling in the Trump disqualification case, a state or local official removed under Section 3 could still hold federal office, all the way up to president, unless Congress acted.

Griffin said his disqualification was politically motivated. He and his defense attorney said Monday's dismissal by the Supreme Court holds ominous implications, creating a pathway for partisan actors to harness Section 3 of the 14th Amendment in unpredictable ways in the future.

"All you have to do is go to a really friendly county, with a good friendly judge that's politically on your side, and then you get rid of your opposition," said Peter Ticktin, Griffin's attorney in the appeal to the Supreme Court. Derek Muller, a Notre Dame law professor, said he wouldn't be surprised if Section 3 litigation eventually targets people for reasons well beyond Jan. 6.

"I don't know how widespread it's going to be," he said.

"I'm sure people are going to start thinking creatively about what it means — if you're supporting, Hamas, the Taliban, (Black Lives Matter)."

Muller added that the court system is well-equipped to sort out frivolous uses of Section 3, just as it does in other cases of ballot challenges: "In most of these cases, I think it won't pass the initial motion to dismiss."

The bigger question, he said, is how do courts address issues that the Supreme Court dodged in its ruling on the Trump case: What constitutes an insurrection under Section 3? How do First Amendment rights and other constitutional guarantees interact with its provisions?

In Griffin's case, New Mexico Judge Francis Mathew found that Griffin aided an insurrection without engaging in violence, contributing to a delay in Congress' certification of the presidential election. □

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Top former U.S. generals say failures of Biden administration in planning drove chaotic fall of Kabul

By TARA COPP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top two U.S. generals who oversaw the evacuation of Afghanistan as it fell to the Taliban in August 2021 blamed the Biden administration for the chaotic departure, telling lawmakers Tuesday that it inadequately planned for the evacuation and did not order it in time.

The rare testimony by the two retired generals publicly exposed for the first time the strain and differences the military leaders had with the Biden administration in the final days of the war. Two of those key differences included that the military had advised that the U.S. keep at least 2,500 service members in Afghanistan to maintain stability and a concern that the State Department was not moving fast enough to get an evacuation started. The remarks contrasted with an internal White House review of the administration's decisions which found that President Joe Biden's decisions had been "severely constrained" by previous withdrawal agreements negotiated by former President Donald Trump and blamed the military, saying top commanders said they had enough resources to handle the evacuation. Thirteen U.S. service members were killed by a suicide bomber at the Kabul airport's Abbey Gate in the final days of the war, as the Taliban took over Afghanistan. Thousands of panicked Afghans and U.S. citizens desperately tried to get on U.S. military flights that were airlifting people out. In the end the military was able to rescue more than 130,000 civilians before the final U.S. military aircraft departed.

That chaos was the end result of the State Department failing to call for an evacuation of U.S. personnel until it was too late, both former Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Mil-



Retired Gen. Mark Milley, left, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left, and retired Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, former commander of the U.S. Central Command, speak to the House Foreign Affairs Committee about the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Associated Press

ley and U.S. Central Command retired Gen. Frank McKenzie told the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "On 14 August the non-combatant evacuation operation decision was made by the Department of State and the U.S. military alerted, marshalled, mobilized and rapidly deployed faster than any military in the world could ever do," Milley said.

But the State Department's decision came too late, Milley said.

"The fundamental mistake, the fundamental flaw was the timing of the State Department," Milley said. "That was too slow and too late." Evacuation orders must come from the State Department, but in the weeks and months before Kabul fell to the Taliban, the Pentagon was pressing the State Department for evacuation plans, and was concerned that State was not ready, McKenzie said. "We had forces in the region as early as 9 July, but we could do nothing," McKenzie said, calling State's timing "the fatal flaw that created what happened in August."

"I believe the events of mid and late August 2021 were the direct result of delaying the initiation of the (evacuation) for several months, in fact until we were in ex-

tremis and the Taliban had overrun the country," McKenzie said. Milley was the nation's top-ranking military officer at the time, and had urged President Joe Biden to keep a residual force of 2,500 forces there to give Afghanistan's special forces enough backup to keep the Taliban at bay and allow the U.S. military to hold on to Bagram Air Base, which could have provided the military additional options to respond to Taliban attacks.

Biden did not approve the larger residual force, opting to keep a smaller force of 650 that would be limited to securing the U.S. embassy. □

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Supreme Court allows Texas to begin enforcing law that lets police arrest migrants at border

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

A divided Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed Texas to begin enforcing a law that gives police broad powers to arrest migrants suspected of crossing the border illegally while a legal battle over the measure plays out.

The conservative majority's order rejects an emergency application from the Biden administration, which says the law is a clear violation of federal authority that would upset more than a century of immigration authority.

Texas Gov Greg Abbott praised the order and the law which allows any police officer in Texas to arrest migrants for illegal entry and authorizes judges to order them to leave the U.S.

The high court didn't address whether the law is constitutional. The measure now goes back to an appellate court and could eventually return to the Supreme Court.

In the meantime, it wasn't clear how soon Texas might begin arresting migrants



Migrants wait to climb over concertina wire after they crossed the Rio Grande and entered the U.S. from Mexico, Sept. 23, 2023, in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Associated Press

under the law.

The majority did not write a detailed opinion in the case, as is typical in emergency appeals. But the decision to let the law go into effect drew dissents from liberal justices Ketanji Brown Jackson, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor.

"The Court gives a green light to a law that will upend the longstanding federal-state balance of power and sow chaos," Sotomayor wrote in a blistering dissent joined by Jackson. Opponents say the law, known as Senate Bill 4, is the most dramatic at-

tempt by a state to police immigration since an Arizona law more than a decade ago, portions of which were struck down by the Supreme Court. Critics have also said the Texas law could lead to civil rights violations and racial profiling.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre called the law "harmful and unconstitutional" and said it would burden law enforcement while creating confusion. She called on congressional Republicans to settle the issue with a federal border security bill.

Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretary Alicia Bárcena said via the social platform X Tuesday that the law "surprisingly" took effect Tuesday. She said that as Mexico's top diplomat she had been clear: "the protection and support of our countrymen is the priority. I reject this measure that criminalizes and discriminates against people" who are migrating.

Texas, for its part, has argued it has a right to take action over what authorities have called an ongoing crisis at the southern border.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice said in a statement it is "prepared to handle any influx in population" associated with the state law. □

More than six in 10 U.S. abortions in 2023 were done by medication a significant jump since 2020

By **LAURA UNGAR**
AP Science Writer

More than six in 10 of the abortions in the United States last year were done through medication, up from 53% in 2020, new research shows.

The Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights, said about 642,700 medication abortions took place in the first full calendar year after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. Medication abortion accounted for 63% of abortions in the formal health care system.

The data was released Tuesday, a week before the high court will hear arguments in a case that could impact how women get access to mifepristone,

which is usually used with another pill in medication abortions.

Guttmacher researcher Rachel Jones said the increase wasn't a surprise.

"For example, it is now possible in some states, at least for health care providers, to mail mifepristone to people in their homes," Jones said, "so that saves patients trav-

el costs and taking time off work."

Guttmacher's data, which is collected by contacting abortion providers, doesn't count self-managed medication abortions that take place outside the health care system or abortion medication mailed to people in states with abortion bans.

Dr. Grace Ferguson, an OB-GYN and abortion provider in Pittsburgh who isn't involved with the research, said the COVID-19 pandemic and the overturning of Roe v. Wade "really opened the doors" for medication abortions done through telehealth.

Ferguson said "telehealth was a really good way of accommodating that increased volume" in states

where abortion remained legal and saw an increase in people who traveled from more restrictive states. Guttmacher data shows that medication abortions have risen steadily since mifepristone was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2000. The drug, which blocks the hormone progesterone, also primes the uterus to respond to the contraction-causing effect of another drug, misoprostol. The two-drug regimen is used to end a pregnancy through 10 weeks gestation.

The case in front of the Supreme Court could cut off access to mifepristone by mail and impose other restrictions, even in states where abortion remains legal. □



A patient prepares to take the first of two combination pills, mifepristone, for a medication abortion during a visit to a clinic in Kansas City, Kan., on, Oct. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

U.N. weather agency issues 'red alert' on climate change after record heat, ice-melt increases in 2023

By JAMEY KEATEN and SETH BORENSTEIN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. weather agency is sounding a "red alert" about global warming, citing record-smashing increases last year in greenhouse gases, land and water temperatures and melting of glaciers and sea ice, and is warning that the world's efforts to reverse the trend have been inadequate. The World Meteorological Organization said there is a "high probability" that 2024 will be another record-hot year. The Geneva-based agency, in a "State of the Global Climate" report released Tuesday, ratcheted up concerns that a much-vaunted climate goal is increasingly in jeopardy: That the world can unite to limit planetary warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial levels. "Never have we been so close — albeit on a temporary basis at the moment — to the 1.5° C lower limit of the Paris agreement on climate change," said Celeste Saulo, the agency's secretary-general. "The WMO community is sounding the red alert to the world." The 12-month



Celeste Saulo, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General, speaks about the state of Global Climate 2023, during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

period from March 2023 to February 2024 pushed beyond that 1.5-degree limit, averaging 1.56 C (2.81 F) higher, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Service. It said the calendar year 2023 was just below 1.5 C at 1.48 C (2.66 F), but a record hot start to this year pushed beyond that level for the 12-month average. "Earth's issuing a distress call," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio

Guterres said. "The latest State of the Global Climate report shows a planet on the brink. Fossil fuel pollution is sending climate chaos off the charts." Omar Baddour, WMO's chief of climate monitoring, said the year after an El Niño event the cyclical warming of the Pacific Ocean that affects global weather patterns normally tends to be warmer. "So we cannot say defini-

tively about 2024 is going to be the warmest year. But what I would say: There is a high probability that 2024 will again break the record of 2023, but let's wait and see," he said. "January was the warmest January on record. So the records are still being broken." The latest WMO findings are especially stark when compiled in a single report. In 2023, over 90% of ocean waters experienced heat

wave conditions at least once. Glaciers monitored since 1950 lost the most ice on record. Antarctic sea ice retreated to its lowest level ever.

"Topping all the bad news, what worries me the most is that the planet is now in a meltdown phase literally and figuratively given the warming and mass loss from our polar ice sheets," said Jonathan Overpeck, dean of the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, who wasn't involved in the report. Saulo called the climate crisis "the defining challenge that humanity faces" and said it combines with a crisis of inequality, as seen in growing food insecurity and migration.

WMO said the impact of heatwaves, floods, droughts, wildfires and tropical cyclones, exacerbated by climate change, was felt in lives and livelihoods on every continent in 2023. "This list of record-smashing events is truly distressing, though not a surprise given the steady drumbeat of extreme events over the past year," said University of Arizona climate scientist Kathy Jacobs, who also wasn't involved in the WMO report. □

Associated Press

European Union pushes ahead with a plan to buy weapons for Ukraine with frozen Russian asset profits

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union is pressing ahead with a plan to use the profits generated from billions of euros of Russian assets frozen in Europe to help provide weapons and other funds for Ukraine, a senior official said Tuesday. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell got a green light for the plan from most of the bloc's foreign ministers this week, and he hopes that EU leaders will endorse it at a summit in Brussels starting on Thursday. The move comes as Ukraine runs dan-

gerously low on munitions, and U.S. efforts to get new funds for weapons have stalled in Congress. The 27-nation EU is holding around 200 billion euros (\$217 billion) in Russian central bank assets, most of it frozen in Belgium, in retaliation for Moscow's war against Ukraine. The bloc estimates that the interest on that money could provide around 3 billion euros (\$3.3 billion) each year. "The Russians will not be very happy. The amount of money, 3 billion per year, is not extraordinary, but it is not negligible," Borrell told

reporters. A small group of member countries, notably Hungary, refuse to supply weapons to Ukraine, so these windfall profits would be divided up. Around 90% of the money would be put into a special fund that many EU countries already use to get reimbursed for arms and ammunition they send. The other 10% would be put into the EU budget to help bolster Ukraine's defense industry. Countries that object to sending weapons could then claim that they are not arming the country, Borrell said. □



European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell rings a bell to signify the start of a meeting of EU foreign ministers at the European Council building in Brussels, Monday, March 18, 2024.

Associated Press

U.N. chief decries violence in west Myanmar as two dozen villagers are reported killed in airstrikes

By **GRANT PECK**
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Military airstrikes in western Myanmar killed at least 25 members of the country's Muslim Rohingya minority, including children, local media reported, prompting the U.N. chief to express concerns over the escalating violence.

According to the reports, the airstrikes took place early on Monday morning and targeted the village of Thada, north of Minbya township in Rakhine state. The strikes also left another 25 people wounded. The military government had no immediate comment on the reports.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres expressed deep concern over "the deteriorating situation and escalation of conflict in Myanmar," according to a spokesperson.

The U.N. chief "condemns all forms of violence and reiterates his call for the protection of civilians, including aid workers in accordance with international humanitarian law, for the cessation of hostilities, and



U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres listens to a speech, during the opening of the High-Level Segment of the 55th session of the Human Rights Council at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on Feb. 26, 2024.

humanitarian access," said Guterres' deputy spokesperson, Farhan Haq, in a statement on Monday. Myanmar's military is increasingly using airstrikes to counter the widespread armed struggle against its rule since its seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in

February 2021.

A report issued at the end of last year by Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica, a Myanmar research and advocacy organization, said that since the military's 2021 takeover, 936 civilians had been killed and 878 wounded in 1,652 airstrikes. It said 137 religious buildings, 76 schools and 28

hospital and dispensaries had been damaged by aerial attacks.

The Rohingya village of Thada is about 340 kilometers (120 miles) southwest of Mandalay, the country's second largest city. However, almost 90% of Myanmar's people are Buddhist, especially the Burman ma-

majority, which constitutes the Southeast Asian nation's ruling class.

Two villagers from the Thada village told The Associated Press late on Monday that a jet fighter dropped two bombs on the village at around 1:30 a.m. Six children were among the 25 killed, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fears of arrests and reprisals.

The victims included those who had fled fighting in nearby villages, the villagers said.

Independent media including Myanmar Now, The Irrawaddy and Rakhine-based outlets also reported about the incident, giving death tolls between 21 and 23 on Monday and Tuesday.

Different casualty tolls are common in areas of Myanmar that are difficult to access.

The AP was unable to independently confirm details of the airstrikes because reporting is greatly restricted and most phone services in the affected area has been cut by the military government. □

Associated Press

Dominican Republic is urged to stop deporting people to Haiti as people flee surge in gang violence

By **MARTÍN ADAMES AL-CÁNTARA**

Associated Press

DAJABON, Dominican Republic (AP) — Human rights

activists are calling on the Dominican Republic's government for a temporary reprieve in deportations as neighboring Haiti's crisis

spirals and people attempt to flee over the closed border from a surge in deadly gang violence.

Small trucks with customized cages are ferrying dozens of Haitians every day from a detention center in San Cristóbal to the border on the island of Hispaniola as the gang attacks paralyze parts of Haiti's capital. "If the government could postpone or diminish the push for deportations, it would be an achievement...an important contribution to the Haitian population," said William Charpentier, coordinator for the Dominican-based National Coalition for Migrations and Refugees.

Charpentier said his organization has received complaints about Domini-

can authorities allegedly bursting into homes to arrest people believed to be Haitians, breaking belongings and extorting them at times.

The United Nations also has called on the Dominican Republic and other countries to halt deportations, noting that Haiti is extremely unsafe.

Roberto Álvarez, the Dominican Republic's foreign minister, told reporters that the deportations are a result of a national security policy and that there is no choice but to continue them.

"We do it respecting international conventions and human rights treaties. We are not perfect. From time to time, situations occur. We try to correct them im-

mediately," he responded when asked about allegations of abuse.

More than 23,900 people have been deported so far this year, according to the Dominican government. More than 4,500 have been deported this month.

Scores of people have been killed since the attacks began on Feb. 29 across Port-au-Prince, with gangs targeting police stations, the main international airport that remains closed and Haiti's two biggest prisons, with more than 4,000 inmates released.

The attacks have left homeless about 17,000 people who have fled their neighborhoods, according to the U.N.

"There is a lot of calamity to eat, a lot of fights. □



People who were detained for deportation to Haiti stand inside a police truck on the border bridge that connects Dajabon, Dominican Republic with Haiti, Monday, March 18, 2024.

Associated Press

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Aruba Celebrates National Anthem and Flag Day in Grand Fashion!



On Monday, March 18th, Aruba celebrated its national day, National Hymn and Flag Day. With a shared love for Aruba and its patriotic symbols, various service groups and civil society held different activities to celebrate. As customary, people came out to enjoy the various organized activities around the island.

Activities began on Sunday evening with a cultural manifestation at Plaza Libertador Betico Croes where musical groups, dance groups, singers, and other artists delighted the audience with various cultural performances.

Monday morning, the activities started with the Protocol Act in front of Plaza Libertador Betico Croes where different organizations, foundations, and groups participated in the parade to represent their groups in front of His Excellency the Governor of Aruba, ministers, and the attending public.

From morning till night, from San Nicolas to Noord, there were a variety of events and activities for citizens to celebrate the national day and enjoy Aruba's culture.

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Featuring a total of 123 slot machines, LIV Casino boasts an extensive selection to cater to every gaming preference. Among them, 114 are Dollar machines, while 9 are Florin machines, ensuring there's a game for every-



one's taste and budget. But that's not all - LIV Casino takes pride in its comprehensive table game offerings. Guests can indulge in the classic allure of Blackjack, the anticipation of the Roulette wheel, and the strategic intrigue of Three Card Poker. Each table hosts its progressive jackpot, adding an extra layer of excitement to every hand dealt and every spin made.

LIV Casino opens its doors from 11AM to 3AM, providing ample opportunity for guests to immerse themselves in the thrill of gaming. For table game enthusiasts, the excitement extends into the evening, with table opening hours from 4:30PM till closing.

In response to our guests' ever-evolving preferences, LIV Casino has expanded its repertoire with several new machines. Embrace the thrill of Bao Zhu Zhao Fu - Festival Explosion and explore the dynamic offerings of Interblock - Universal Cabinets, featuring Golden Ball Roulette, Blackjack, and Craps. The possibilities are endless, and the win-



nings await those bold enough to try their luck.

"We are excited to invite guests to experience the excitement and luxury of LIV Casino," said Marc Charley, Casino General Manager at LIV Casino. "Whether you're a seasoned gambler or a novice seeking adventure, LIV Casino promises an unforgettable gaming experience."

Embark on a journey of excitement and fortune at LIV Casino, where every moment is infused with anticipation and possibility. Join us today and discover the thrill of gaming at its finest.

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About LIV Casino, Barcelo Aruba: LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barcelo Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 11 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □

Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These visitors were respectively honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor

(10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Distinguished Visitors Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Kim Weihs from New York, United States.

Goodwill Ambassadors Mr. David & Mrs. Bernice Squires from Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the certificates to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

resenting the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the certificates to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the Weihs were:

- Aruba's beauty.
- Aruba's cleanliness.
- Aruba's fantastic weather.
- "The Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!"

"Friends we have made throughout the years."

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- Aruba's great people.
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- Aruba's turquoise beaches.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



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ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

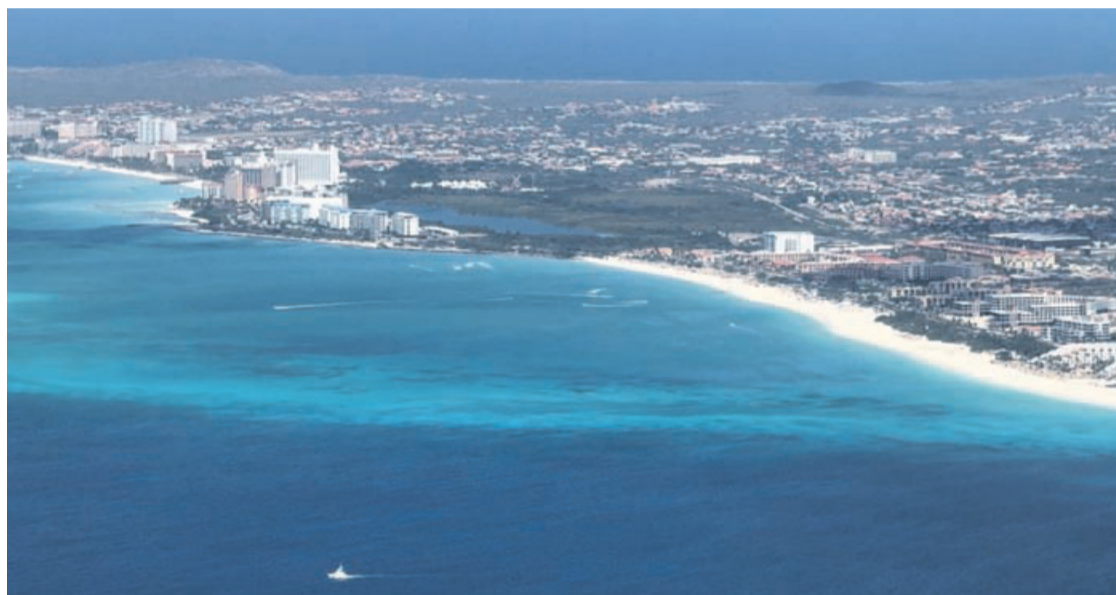
Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our awesome visitor Don Alhart from the U.S.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is the left side of the plane!



Whenever we book our flight to Aruba, I always choose seats on the left side of the plane. That provides the best view as we approach "One Happy

Island." When departing, the "right" side provides a good view of the coast, but you may just want to pull down the shade-to, avoid being sad that you

are leaving."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: **The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna**

mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level).

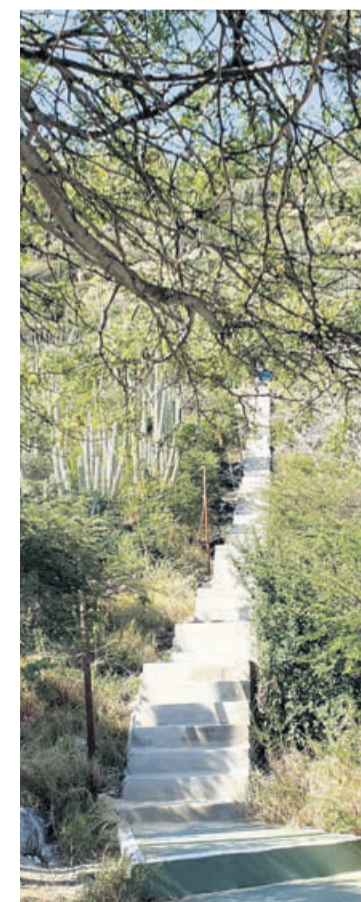


The highest point is Jananota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only

587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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One day after March 18th

After having celebrated the day of the anthem and the flag, a reflection is not bad at all. March 18th is an unbeatable opportunity to reaffirm patriotic sentiment, understood as the legitimate desire to see Aruba overcome its problems and achieve a stage of development that really benefits the population. Our island needs us, but we also need our island. We both complement each other, and if we walk in the same direction, we can help each other a lot better.

It is not the idea to give lessons or lectures to anyone, but... throwing garbage everywhere, not respecting traffic rules, not being moved by the pain of others or otherwise not showing respect and honoring their achievements, takes away the shine of the national festivity. We all do Aruba, and even the smallest details must be done in the right direction.

We need to love and honor our island's history and traditions. We need to carry Aruba in our hearts, feel it in each of our actions, and, above all, vibrate for each reality, be it triumph or sorrow, because Aruba is like our own beating heart we need to transmit to the future generations the inheritance of honesty, respect, and the effort to make Aruba a better place every day.

A national holiday should be to reflect on the current situation and the challenges we face as a small but

relentless society, and although we are all called to this introspective effort, it is the authorities who are responsible for analyzing whether they are contributing to national objectives. A national holiday commemorates the advances, achievements, and sacrifices made by previous generations and allow people to express gratitude for the freedoms, opportunities, and privileges they enjoy as citizens. But more importantly, the next generation will continue to celebrate the national holiday, so the rulers need to evaluate their performance with a self-critical sense and make the right decisions that help regain the trust of the people.

Urgently need to avoid continuing to transmit to people the idea that improvisation prevails. It is immediate to demonstrate a sincere commitment to corruption. It is extremely necessary for each individual Member of Parliament to weigh his work to determine whether he or she is an actor that really contributes to overcoming crisis.

If local politics does not change its

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approach and decides to prolong inappropriate actions, it is likely that the instability that we have been suffering for a long time will become not the exception but a regrettable rule, and those who suffer the worst consequences will be the traditional Arubans. By prioritizing quantity rather than quality in tourism, the island's carrying capacity has been overstretched, negatively compromising its environmental resources, drastically changing its natural landscape, and generating constant discomfort for its original residents, facing the high cost of living in a "utopic paradise." Quo Vadis? Aruba faces threats and difficulties, such as the increase in global prices, inflation, high fuel prices and transport costs, illegal aliens, loss of buying power, overcrowded school classes, a huge waist pile at local dumps, light and noise pollution, and high taxes, among others, that urgently need a turn of the helm to guide it and allow its citizens to get out of these "turbulent waters." Our ruling class has the historical duty to act accordingly with that responsibility in order to offer viable solutions.

Aruba also faces global threats and difficulties due to the increase in insecurity, wars, and weakening judicial systems, while corruption also menaces the greedy. What better occasion than the day of the anthem and flag to put into practice such an important commitment from the heart and soul? "Status Aparte" was made possible by Arubans for Arubans; however, today it seems like we have more foreigners on a job than the traditional Arubans, for whom all sacrifice was made in the first place.

The Aruban struggle sometimes seems to be in vain when we see how all this so-called "progress" is killing tradition, neglecting culture, usurping heritage, and desecrating nature itself. However, let's not give up but rather recharge our fighting spirit to recover what is still to save and protect what has been given to us by our forefathers for keeps. □

Article written by Etnia Nativa, follow us weekly through Island Insight that will definitely show you Aruba from a different perspective. WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com



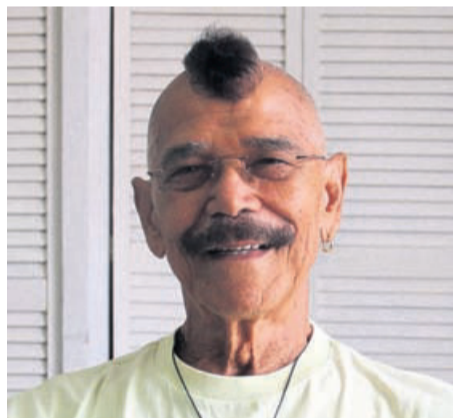
A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work.



It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according

to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down

pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 41 Call for
 - 1 Ease up
 - 6 Sunset site
 - 10 Jimmy Smits series
 - 11 Grand, for one
 - 12 Battery, e.g.
 - 13 Rocker John
 - 14 Fine study
 - 15 Ripen
 - 16 Poker prize
 - 17 Melody
 - 18 For each
 - 19 Skunks
 - 22 Turn to liquid
 - 23 Outfits
 - 26 Old World rodents
 - 29 Brink
 - 32 Phone bill addition
 - 33 Ray-gun sound
 - 34 Boxing combo
 - 36 Soccer great
 - 37 Opera's Callas
 - 38 2008 Pixar movie
 - 39 Rage
 - 40 Gawked at
- DOWN**
- 1 Dogpatch creator
 - 2 Watering hole
 - 3 Some-what
 - 4 Scots' caps
 - 5 Ram's mate
 - 6 Droop
 - 7 "Dig in!"
 - 8 Boring movie
 - 9 Copier need
 - 11 Partridge perch
 - 15 Hamm of soccer
 - 17 Aggres-sive
 - 20 Avenue tree
 - 21 Polite address
 - 24 Graceful antelope
 - 25 Seized up
 - 27 Summer sign
 - 28 Swift
 - 29 Caesar, for one
 - 30 Non-sensical
 - 31 Come together
 - 35 Even
 - 36 Book unit
 - 38 Impress greatly

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D	E	W		B	A	R	K	S	A	T
E	M	O		I	S	M		E	G	O
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T	E	E	N	S		H	Y	P	E	D

Yesterday's answer

- 15 Hamm of soccer
- 17 Aggres-sive
- 20 Avenue tree
- 21 Polite address
- 24 Graceful antelope
- 25 Seized up
- 27 Summer sign
- 28 Swift
- 29 Caesar, for one
- 30 Non-sensical
- 31 Come together
- 35 Even
- 36 Book unit
- 38 Impress greatly

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37						38			
39						40			
41						42			

3-20

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

D W V U X D U ' T U X J U X M W N
D S B Q U O J B O G J P X B F J D W
J Y J Z C U X M W N U X J C T D C . U X J C
U X M W L J Y J Z C B W J J G T J V B J T
U B B . — L X D G J V X B T T J M W M
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SPRING IS NATURE'S WAY OF SAYING, "LET'S PARTY!" — ROBIN WILLIAMS



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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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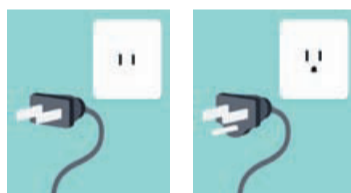
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Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermar-

kets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe. □



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- WK 7 and 14 - all views

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STOP Violence Against Women



Maximalism on a budget: affordable options for bold home décor

By **RONITA CHOUDHURI-WADE** of NerdWallet

Allie LeFevere describes her maximalist Chicago home as colorful and eclectic. When she and her husband moved in to their home four years ago, she didn't have a specific design in mind.

"I just wanted the house to feel vibrant," says LeFevere, founder of branding agency Obedient. She wanted "a representation of our lives and the places we've explored and the memories we've made."

The philosophy behind maximalism decor is "more is more," according to Jean Whitehead, a senior lecturer on interior design at Falmouth University in county Cornwall, England. Bold colors, textures and unique pieces define this style, elements of which Vogue magazine says are "in" as design trends for 2024.

Going maximalist in your home can seem daunting and expensive but it doesn't have to be, say those who favor a bold aesthetic. Here's how to achieve a maximalist look on a budget.

SHOP AT THRIFT AND VINTAGE STORES

"One of the more economical ways to explore maximalism is through vintage and antique things that are available at thrift stores and estate sales," says Daniel Mathis, who runs the Instagram account Not A Minimalist with over 70,000 followers.



Two men carry a table into Camp Moosehead Lake Indian Store, a gift shop and vintage store, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2020 in York Beach, Maine.

Mathis's home in Oklahoma City showcases his maximalist style, including many pieces purchased second-hand. To get a good bargain, Mathis suggests waiting until the last day of an estate sale when prices are typically reduced.

Alex Ammar, a certified financial planner and owner of Paradox Financial based outside Orlando, Florida, recommends setting a budget and decorating in stages.

"You might have different budgets for different tiers of interior decorating," Ammar says. Second-hand and discount stores are great for decor and accent pieces, while you may spend more on distinct fur-

niture, like a sofa.

MAKE IT YOURSELF

Maximalism can mean applying your own creativity to a space. Be bold with reinventing old furniture or items you have around the house. When Mathis fell in love with the Southwest design of a rug, he used the fabric to upholster an armchair in his sitting room. For a simpler project, you can individually frame travel photos or children's artwork and hang them together to create a gallery wall above a couch or along a hallway.

Finding ways to reimagine pieces already in your home adds a layer of individuality to the decor while saving you money.

Associated Press

Look through your home for items that could use a boost, and browse art and home supply stores for ideas and tools you may need to revive them.

CONSIDER MEANINGFUL PIECES

Including noteworthy pieces in your decor is a way to create a one-of-a-kind space and it doesn't have to be pricey. Keep an eye out for items that stand out to you, and be flexible, which can mean building up a collection over time or making minor alterations to a piece.

Mathis started collecting rare Ozark Roadside Tourist pottery about seven years ago. He currently has 150 pieces of the multi-colored,

marbleized pottery.

"That's maximalism for me," says Mathis. "It's about lots of color, lots of patterns ... but I tried to do it in a very intentional and curated way." He purchased his first vase for \$50; now, similar Ozark Roadside Tourist vases can sell for nearly \$1,000. LeFevere says her favorite piece in her home is an antique pie cabinet with mesh screens that she painted pastel green to match her kitchen. "I'm not cooking any pie in my life," LeFevere says, but the piece is "just really cool."

FIND YOUR OWN STYLE

LeFevere and Mathis both highlight the importance of knowing what you like while staying open to designs that surprise you. LeFevere visits sites like Pinterest to find styles or decor she likes and saves the images to a Google doc.

Similarly, Mathis built his personal style by clipping photos from decor magazines. He says the fun in maximalist design is the process of discovery.

By knowing what you like, you'll be able to assemble pieces to fill your space, whether you find them in a thrift store, create them yourself or invest in a special piece.

Ammar says it's also important to know yourself when it comes to money and how you manage expenses that arise from redecorating, especially if you're financing purchases. □

Inflation remains a headache for small business owners

By **MAE ANDERSON**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Inflation remains small businesses' chief worry, according to a new survey showing their optimism fell in February.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses' Optimism Index fell to 89.4 in February. It's been below the 50-year average of 98 for 26 straight months. Twenty-three percent of small business owners said inflation was their top problem, up three points from January, when labor qual-

ity was the chief concern. Inflation remains elevated. Prices rose 0.4% from January to February, up from the previous month's 0.3% pace, the Labor Department said last week. Compared with a year earlier, consumer prices rose 3.2% last month, slightly higher than in January.

Excluding food and energy prices, so-called "core" prices also climbed 0.4% from January to February. That's faster than what's needed to bring inflation down to the Fed's 2%

target. Core inflation is watched closely for a read on where inflation is likely headed.

As they grapple with inflation, small business owners are spending less. Fifty-four percent of owners reported capital outlays in the last six months, down five percentage points from January. Of those making expenditures, 35% reported spending on new equipment, 23% acquired vehicles, and 15% improved or expanded facilities. □



A shop holds a sidewalk sale on Feb. 10, 2023, in Providence, R.I.

Associated Press



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Passo Herencia

NBA teams on the defensive as scoring goes slightly down after All-Star break

By **PAT GRAHAM**
AP Sports Writer

New Orleans forward Herbert Jones learned a long time ago the critical component to being an elite defensive stopper was keeping whoever you're guarding in front of you. It's that simple. It's that difficult, too.

"You do the best you can," Jones said.

Contrary to popular belief, there HAS been some defense played in the NBA this season (it's just been tougher). It's been on display more following the All-Star break and on the heels of that record-setting 211-186 All-Star Game when all signs of guarding anyone vanished.

The numbers post-break speak volumes about the commitment to defense: Entering Monday, NBA teams were averaging around four points per game less than they were before mid-February, dropping from 115.5 to 111.3.

NBA coaches and players have various explanations for that. Maybe defenders are being allowed to get away with more by officials, becoming wise to the tricks of the elite scorers. Or maybe it's because the NBA playoff race is tightening up down the stretch. It's probably as simple as this: Fewer fouls are being called on each team (down from 19.4 per game to 17.5 post-break) and fewer free throws are being attempted (22.7 down to 19.8). Fewer free throws, fewer points.

The NBA says it did not mandate fewer fouls being called. "We haven't gotten a memo about it, or maybe I wasn't paying attention,"



Atlanta Hawks guard Dejounte Murray (5) tries to get around New Orleans Pelicans forward Herbert Jones (5) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 10, 2024, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That could be the case. Good. If the competitors and teams can figure it out between those four lines, we're all for it."

Spoelstra thinks it could be as simple as teams just locking in at an important time of year. Michael Malone, coach of the reigning champion Denver Nuggets, can see that.

"I just think our guys are more disciplined from a personal and game-plan standpoint. I think we're a lot more urgent," Malone said. "Our disposition is where it needs to be."

For Jones, guarding someone boils down to fundamentals. He was taught at Alabama to play defense with his chest. Basically, using his footwork to keep his upper body in front of an offensive player and not reaching with his hands.

As for any discrepancy between the amount of calls before and after the All-

Star break, well, Jones said it just depends on the night. "You really never know how things may go, and I think that's what the first quarter is about," Jones explained. "You're just trying to figure out the flow of the game. I mean, try to be physical coming out to see if you can get away with things. But at the end of the day, whatever the refs call, it's their call and you've got to deal with it."

San Antonio's 7-foot-4 center, Victor Wembanyama, impedes the way of just about anyone who dares enter his lane. In this particular instance, though, the rookie conceded a little ground by saying that fellow Frenchman Rudy Gobert has a good chance of earning his fourth NBA defensive player of the year award.

"Let him earn it now because afterward it won't be his turn," Wembanyama joked. Gobert's presence in

the middle has been big for a Minnesota team missing Karl-Anthony Towns due to a knee injury. Gobert leads the league in defensive rating and remains the heavy favorite to win the defensive award, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. Also in the mix are Wembanyama (the league's leader in blocks), Cleveland's Jarrett Allen, Miami's Bam Adebayo and Anthony Davis of the Lakers.

At the start of the season, defense took a backseat as high-scoring games became the norm. There have been 15 instances in which a player scored 50 or more points 16 if you count Towns' 50 in the All-Star Game including a 73-point outburst from Luka Doncic on Jan. 26.

But none have occurred since the break.

Earlier this season, when scorers were posting gaudy numbers, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich was

asked if he would lobby for rule changes in an effort to return to old-school defensive games.

He scoffed.

"No, because that would be a waste of time," Popovich said. "The league has decided how they want this to be played, and we've been doing it for quite a while now and it's not going in the other direction because the fans love it."

"I don't know this for a fact, but I am going to guess that our '05 championship against Detroit had the entire league office just hiding and biting their lip and hoping it would be over quickly because it was so freakin' boring."

That 2005 NBA championship was a defensive gem the Spurs won in seven games, when only once did San Antonio or Detroit top 100 points.

This season, the Indiana Pacers are leading the way on offense by averaging 123.1 points a game. Every team averages at least 105.8.

"In this league, there's always an ebb and flow," Atlanta coach Quin Snyder said. "Defenses catch up to offenses and offenses adjust and defenses adjust. That's what makes it a unique league. You have to continue to adapt to what's going on in the game." That's the consensus of Mavericks coach Jason Kidd, too.

"These players are very, very smart and understand how to trick the referees," said Kidd, a Hall of Fame guard who won a title in 2010-11 with Dallas. "What we're taught to do is get the rules and figure out how to turn them to our advantage as players. □"

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Ovechkin becomes 3rd in NHL history with at least 20 goals in 19 straight seasons; Caps beat Flames

CALGARY, Alberta (AP)

— Alex Ovechkin scored twice and became the third player in NHL history to have at least 20 goals in 19 consecutive seasons as the Washington Capitals beat the Calgary Flames 5-2 on Monday night.

The 38-year-old Ovechkin had two power-play goals in the second period as Washington won its third straight game. He joined Gordie Howe (22) and Brendan Shanahan (19) as the only players to achieve the goal-scoring feat.

“Consistency. Not just from the scoring part but also him being in the lineup and being durable and him being able to play game after game after game all these years,” Washington coach Spencer Carbery said of Ovechkin. “We needed every single bit of those two goals tonight to get us in front and to be able to play from in front because you could tell early on we



Washington Capitals forward Alex Ovechkin (8) celebrates his goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Calgary Flames in Calgary, Alberta, Monday, March 18, 2024. Associated Press

had zero legs and mentally some of the puck decisions, plays, it was uncharacteristic.”

Dylan Strome, Hendrix Lapierre and Tom Wilson also

scored for Washington (33-25-9), which moved into the second wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference, one point ahead of idle Detroit. It’s the first time the

Capitals have occupied a playoff spot since Jan. 2.

“We know it’s not going to be easy. We keep fighting, keep playing,” said Ovechkin. “We still can do it. We’re

still in the battle. Every point counts.” Kevin Rooney and MacKenzie Weegar scored for Calgary (33-30-5). The Flames finished 2-2-0 in a four-game homestand.

Washington goalie Charlie Lindgren had 34 saves and improved to 18-11-5. He has won five of his last six games with a .956 save percentage.

Calgary rookie Dustin Wolf allowed four goals on 32 shots in his third straight start and saw his record dip to 3-4-1. Wolf had allowed three goals on 67 shots in winning his last two games. Ovechkin’s 20th goal of the season made it 2-0 at 5:58 of the second period. Ovechkin went to the net where he neatly deflected a hard centring pass from Max Pacioretty into the top corner. After pumping his arms in celebration, Ovechkin immediately looked over at Pacioretty and pointed, acknowledging the terrific pass. □

Olympic great Perkins warns doping-allowed Enhanced Games are ‘borderline criminal’



Australian silver medal winner for the men’s 1500m freestyle Kieren Perkins stands on the podium Saturday, Sept. 23, 2000, at the Sydney International Aquatic Center during the Summer Olympics in Sydney.

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Olympic great and Australian Sports Commission chief Kieren Perkins says “someone will die” if a multi-sport event that he called “borderline criminal” and which allows banned performance-enhancing substances goes ahead.

The Enhanced Games have been proposed by Australian entrepreneur and London-based Aron D’Souza, with Australia’s dual world champion swimmer and triple Olympic medalist James Magnussen the first athlete to publicly

pledge to compete at the 2025 event.

D’Souza has promised the retired Magnussen \$1 million if he can break the world 50-meter freestyle record after taking performance-enhancing substances.

“Someone will die if we allow that sort of environment to continue to foster and flourish,” Perkins, who won 1,500-meter freestyle gold medals at the 1992 and ‘96 Olympics and took silver in 2000, told a sports conference on Tuesday.

While not commenting di-

rectly on Magnussen, Perkins said sport shouldn’t turn its back on athletes contemplating taking part, and they should be “protected from making poor decisions.”

“I certainly fear for them, and it’s disappointing because of the selfishness that’s involved,” he said. “There’s plenty of historical examples of athletes that don’t survive through their 40s because of taking drugs, whose children are severely disabled, malformed and have had short lives themselves.” □